

U.S. Department of Justice

Stephen J. Murphy United States Attorney Eastern District of Michigan

Suite 2001 211 West Fort Street Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277 Fax: (313) 226-3561

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

Vera Fedorak - ATF (313) 259-7917

April 20, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Daniel Stuart

JACKSON RESIDENT FOUND GUILTY OF FEDERAL DRUG AND WEAPONS CHARGES

Jackson resident Daniel Lee Stuart, 59, was found guilty on April 19, 2006, by a Federal Jury in United States District Court in Detroit on charges of possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute, possessing firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking, operating a drug premises, possessing a destructive device, and possessing firearms as an illegal drug user, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Schneider.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Valerie J. Goddard, Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The evidence presented at trial showed that Stuart was selling pound-size quantities of marijuana out of his residence on Edgewood Street in Jackson. On March 25, 2003, officers from the Jackson Narcotics Enforcement Team ("JNET"), which was composed of officers from the Jackson Police Department, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, the Blackman Township

Department of Public Safety, and the Michigan State Police, executed a search warrant at Stuart's residence. The search yielded approximately six pounds of marijuana packaged for sale, two scales for weighing drugs, eight firearms, a "Street Sweeper" shotgun, and a bullet-proof vest. The "Street Sweeper" is a revolving-cylinder shotgun with a capacity of 12 rounds and is classified by the federal government as a destructive device. Stuart, who was not at home at the time of the search, arrived home during the search and was arrested.

The jury deliberated for less than two hours before returning the verdict, concluding a two-day trial before United States District Judge George Caram Steeh.

"This case clearly demonstrates our commitment to aggressively prosecute drug traffickers in Jackson County," United States Attorney Murphy said. "I am grateful to the hardworking officers at the Jackson Police Department, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, the Blackman Township Department of Public Safety, and the Michigan State Police, who did such an excellent job investigating this case and bringing Daniel Stuart to justice."

"The Stuart case is yet another example of how the federal government works closely with state and local offices to combat drug trafficking. The Project Safe Neighborhood initiative helps make our neighborhoods safer by getting armed drug dealers and other violent criminals with firearms off our streets," SAC Goddard said.

A sentencing date has been set for July 20, 2006. Stuart faces a mandatory minimum of 5 years imprisonment. Under the federal sentencing guidelines, Stuart faces a range of 123 to 138 months imprisonment (approximately 10 to 11 1/2 years).